exceeded the time limit. The changes to the drawings and specification are consistent with this description, and therefore, no new matter has been added. Upon receipt of a Notice of Allowance, formal drawings incorporating the changes will be submitted to the PTO Draftsman.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 13, line 16, after the word "has", please insert ---not---.

On page 13, line 19, please delete the word "not".

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Amended).   A system for demonstrating software programs to a potential purchaser of the programs and for gathering marketing information related to the demonstration of the programs, comprising:

receive means for receiving a plurality of software programs to be demonstrated;

protection means for maintaining each of the software programs in a locked state in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the software programs, the protection means including an image file having an internal configuration of a separate storage medium, at least one of the software programs being stored in the image file;

sample means for enabling any of the software programs for execution upon selection by a user, for allowing the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, for maintaining the selected software program in the locked state

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during the sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software program, and for selectively disabling the sampling of the selected software program, the sample means including an independent driver configured to access the software program in the image file; and

monitoring means for generating a code that identifies a particular software program in the plurality of software programs and contains information relating to sampling of the particular software program by the user.

13 (Amended). A system for demonstrating software programs to a potential purchaser of the programs and for gathering marketing information related to the demonstration of the programs, comprising:

receive means for receiving a plurality of software programs to be demonstrated;

protection means for maintaining each of the software programs in [a] an undivided locked state in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the software programs;

sample means for enabling any of the software programs for execution upon selection by a user on any digital computer having components capable of processing computer readable program code of the selected software program, for allowing the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, for maintaining the selected software program in the locked state during the sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software

program, and for selectively disabling the sampling of the selected software program; and

monitoring means for generating a code for use in unlocking the software programs and for including in the code an identification of which of the software programs were sampled by the user and how many times each of the software programs were sampled by the user.

14 (Amended). A computerized method for demonstrating software programs to a potential purchaser of the programs and for gathering marketing information related to the demonstration of the programs, comprising the steps executed by a computer of:

receiving a plurality of software programs to be demonstrated;

maintaining each of the software programs in a locked state in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the software programs, at least one of the software programs being stored in an image file having an internal configuration of a separate storage medium;

enabling any of the software programs in the image file for execution upon selection by a user, the enabling step using an independent driver configured particularly to access the image file, allowing the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, maintaining the selected software program in the locked state during the sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software program, and selectively disabling the sampling of the selected software program; and

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generating a code that identifies a particular software program in the plurality of software programs and contains information relating to sampling of the particular software program by the user.

26 (Amended). A computer program product, comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing a computer to demonstrate software programs to a potential purchaser of the programs and gather marketing information related to the demonstration of the programs, the computer being any digital computer having components capable of processing computer readable program code of the software programs, the computer readable program code means in the computer program product comprising:

receive means for causing the computer to receive a plurality of software programs to be demonstrated;

protection means for causing the computer to maintain each of the software programs in [a] an undivided locked state in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the software programs;

sample means for causing the computer to enable any of the software programs for execution upon selection by a user, allow the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, maintain the selected software program in the locked state during the sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software program, and selectively disable the sampling of the selected software program; and

monitoring means for causing the computer to generate a code that identifies a particular software program in the plurality of software programs and contains information relating to sampling of the particular software program by the user.

27 (New). A system for demonstrating software programs to a potential purchaser of the programs and for gathering marketing information related to the demonstration of the programs, comprising:

electronic receive means for electronically receiving a plurality of software programs to be demonstrated;

protection means for maintaining each of the software programs in an undivided locked state, without the need for generating random files, in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the software programs;

sample means for enabling any of the software programs for execution upon selection by a user on any digital computer selected by the user and having components capable of processing computer readable program code of the selected software program, for allowing the user to subsequently sample the selected software program, for maintaining the selected software program in the locked state during the sampling of the selected software program in order to prevent unauthorized duplication of the selected software program, and for selectively disabling the sampling of the selected software program, the sample means functioning without the need for any hardware components and circuitry in addition to the selected digital computer; and

monitoring means for generating a code that identifies a particular software program in the plurality of software programs